



そとへこの道へ

going
separate
ways

冬
目
景
とうめい



アフタヌーンKC

ハツカネズミの時間



アフタヌーン
KC01

ハツカネズミの時間

4

冬
目
景

講談社



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*I remember boredom
and anxiety, but
somehow it makes me
feel nostalgic...and sad.
I even get the feeling
that my real life takes
place over there.*



This is
just the
beginning.



アフタヌーンKC

アフタヌーン
KC801

ハツカネズミの時間

4

冬目景

講談社

*I remember boredom
and anxiety, but
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ハツカネズミの時間

4

冬目景

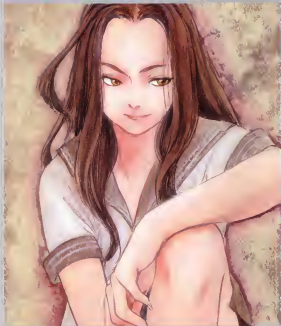
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ハツカネズミの時間

4

THE HOUR OF THE MICE



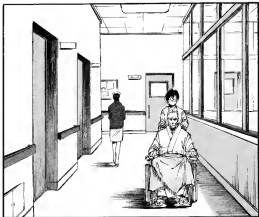
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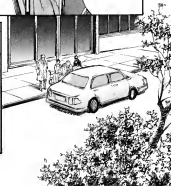


Chapter 6

第一 #1

UNIT 1







I WILL.



I UNDERSTAND
RAGE IS DETOURING.

TAKE
CARE OF
MAYUMI.



NO,
I'M FINE.

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
GET SOME
REST?

YOU MUST
BE TIRED.



OK, RIGHT ...
BY THE TIME YOU
CAME HERE HE'D
ALREADY LEFT.

UNLIKE MAMU,
HE WAS A REAL
HANDFUL.



HOW DID
THEY DO
IT?

YOU
KNOW
...

I'M SUR-
PRISED
THEY WERE
ABLE TO
PERSUADE
HIM.



FATHER.

WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
IS HE?



I DON'T
KNOW...



HE'S BOTTED BY
THREE PAST
SIXTEEN YEARS
ON HIS OWN
STRENGTH.

MOST LIKELY,
THAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR MAMU.



... AND WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
ONCE YOU
SEND HIM
BACK?



HE'S NOT A
CHILD ANYMORE.
HE KNOWS
WHAT'S GOOD
FOR HIM.



ARE YOU
THINKING OF
LEAVING THE
COMPANY TO
MAYBE?



THAT SURPRISE-
SUCH MARCHES
YOU LOOK
EXACTLY LIKE
YOUR MOTHER.

WELL
...
THAT DEPENDS
ENTIRELY
ON MAYBE.



SHE WAS A
NURSE, SO SHE
KNEW WHEN HER
TIME WAS NEAR.

SHE DIED
PEACEFULLY.



YOU, ON THE
OTHER HAND,
TALK A LITTLE
TOO MUCH.

SHE WAS
A QUIET
WOMAN.



— DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING ABOUT
YOU UNTIL
RIGHT BEFORE
SHE DIED.

MY
MOTHER
...

*It is customary in Japanese Buddhism to hold weekly personal services and the ash day after a person's death. The ash-day service is usually the last ceremony and concludes the mourning process.







EVEN AFTER
JOINING THIS
FAMILY, I'M
GOING TO KEEP
MY MOTHER'S
SURNAME.



I DON'T
PLAN TO
TAKE THE
MADAMAMA
NAME.



I DON'T HAVE
A PROBLEM
WITH THAT.

BUT I WONDER
WHAT FATHER
WILL SAY...



MY MOTHER
NAMED ANNE,
TOO.

I WAS STILL A
CHILD THEN.



IF YOU WANT,
I COULD TELL
HER FOR YOU.





WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
BY THAT?



YOU'RE A
MEMBER OF
THE HALLGARTH
FAMILY HOME

IT'S EASY TO LIVE
HERE AS LONG
AS YOU DON'T
FORGET WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE
ONE OF US.



I ALREADY
MADE MY
SUCCESSION
OF HEIR.

BUT...

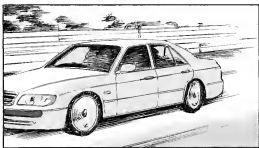
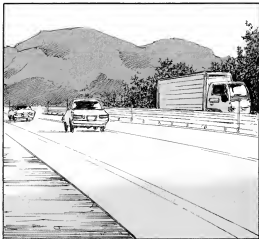
I LIVED IN A
DORMITORY ALL
THE TIME AND
ALMOST NEVER
SAW HER.



EXACTLY
WHAT I
SAID.



IF YOU HAVE
ANY PROBLEMS,
FEEL FREE TO
TALK TO ME.









BUT... YOU
DIDN'T HAVE TO
COME ALONG,
KIKKO

... NO

DO YOU REALLY
THINK I COULD
STAY BEHIND?



I'VE... BEEN
PREPARED FOR
THIS EVER SINCE
MOM CAME.

EVEN IF MAM
DIDN'T RETURN,
I KNOW
I'D HAVE TO.



SO WE'RE
GOING BACK
AFTER ALL.



I ALWAYS FELT
WE HAD TO GO BACK
SOONER OR LATER...

FLUNTING AWAY
WON'T SOLVE
ANYTHING.

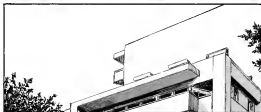


BUT I
COULDN'T
BUY IT, AND I
DON'T WANT
TO KNOW HOW
ELSE TO BUY IT.

A GLIMPSE
GROOVED
MY MIND.



WHY DID MAM
SUDDENLY
DECIDE TO
RETURN?





HELLO.



I DON'T
WANT TO
DIE.



WE FOUND
OTHER
SCARS ON
YOUR ARMS,
THOUGH.



THE BLOOD
WOULDN'T
STOP
FLOWING...

WHEN I
WOKED UP,
I WAS IN
THE
HOSPITAL.



I JUST
HOW
WOULD I
FEEL
THIS...

I WANTED
TO MAKE
SURE.



SOMETIMES I
CAN'T TELL...
YOU SEE...



WHEN I CUT
MYSELF IT
HURTS AND
I BLEED.

AND THEN I
UNDERSTAND
THAT THIS IS
ALL REAL.



LIKE I
USED TO
LIVE A
DIFFERENT
LIFE.

I CAN'T TELL
WHETHER THIS
LIFE IS REAL OR
NOT... THIS MAY
SOUND STUPID,
BUT SOMETIMES
I FEEL LIKE I'M
REMEMBERING
SOMETHING.



WHAT
CAN'T YOU
TELL?



I'LL COME
AND TALK TO
YOU AGAIN.



IT
PAINED
ME --

-- REALLY
UNEASY.



YOUR
MOTHER
TOLD ME.

I HEARD
YOU'D BE
WRITING A
NOVEL?



IT'S JUST
ABOUT A
MURDER
CASE IN AN
ENCLOSED
PLACE.

I'M SURE
YOU'LL
THINK IT'S
STUPID.



WILL YOU LET
ME READ IT
SOMETIME?





Chapter 6
歸一 #2
UNITY









DO YOU EVEN
KNOW --





DURING

I DON'T THINK
THEY'LL LET US
BACK INTO THE
ACADEMY THE
WAY WE ARE,
THOUGH.



WHY DON'T
YOU GET
DOWN?



WE KNOW THE
TRUTH ABOUT
IT, AFTER ALL.



WHAT'S GOING TO
HAPPEN TO US?





YEAH...



THEY'LL PROBABLY
SHAKE OUR
HANDS...



WAT?

IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT.



I'M
SORRY
...

ALL THIS
HAPPENED
...

— BECAUSE
I GOT YOU
INVOLVED.



WASH TOLD
ME ONCE
BEFORE.

THAT THIS
PLACE HAS
ITS OWN
RULES —

— AND THAT
I DON'T
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
DENY IT.



THE
ACADEMY IS
THE ONLY
PLACE HE
CAN LIVE.



...
THAT'S
NOT TRUE.



THE LIVES OF
THOSE BAIRED
HERE DON'T
BELONG TO
ANYONE BUT
THEMSELVES.

MAYBE ALL
I DID WAS
INEFFECTUAL.



IT'S MY FAULT
THINGS TURNED
OUT THIS WAY.

GETTING INVOLVED
WITH YOU WAS
MY OWN CHOICE.
I DRAGGED THE
OTHERS INTO IT.













NOT?



BECAUSE HE'S THE
COMPLETE
OPPOSITE OF
HIS OLDER
BROTHER.



HIGH
DESPISES
HIM.

BUT HIS
FATHER IS
FOND OF
HIM.



THEIR
FATHER
...?

YOU
MEAN THE
PRESIDENT OF HARUSAMA
PHARMACEU-
TICALS?



I SUSPECT
HIS FATHER MAY
NOT BE BEING
THE MOST
RELIABLE ONE.

YOU NEED
A LOT OF
DIFFERENT
QUALITIES TO
MANAGE A
COMPANY.



YOU HAVE THE
OLDER BROTHER,
HIGH ACHIEVING
BUT CONSERVATIVE.

-- AND THE
YOUNGER
BROTHER, LOW
PERFORMING
BUT CREATIVE.





THERE WAS A
GAP IN WHO
THAT'S WHY.

AS LONG AS
THERE ARE NO
INCONSISTEN-
CIES IN THE
IMPLANTED
MEMORIES, HE
WOULDN'T BE ABLE
TO TELL.



OH,
NOTHING.

SOMETHING
WENT
WRAY?



BUT... I'M
NOT THE KIND
OF GUY WHO
WOULD CHEAT
THEM THAT
EASILY.

I WON'T
TELL THEM
ABOUT
ANYTHING.
IT
WOULD
ONLY
MAKE
THEM
WORRY.

I'M NOT SO
SURE ABOUT
THAT.



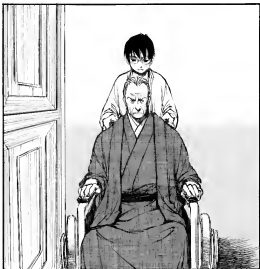








加手ヤ











I WANT YOU TO
CREATE A NEW
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM FOR
THIS FACILITY.



PART OF THE DATA
WE OBTAIN HERE IS
SHARED WITH INTER-
NATIONAL HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONS,
SO WE GOT FUNKING
THROUGH THAT AND
THROUGH THE FACT
THAT NEVER
LOCATED WITHIN A
MILITARY BASE.

AS YOU KNOW,
THIS FACILITY IS
SUPPOSED TO BE AN
ACADEMY, BUT IT'S A
MEDICAL RESEARCH
LABORATORY AT
THE SAME TIME.



INTERNATIONAL
PRESSURE HAS
GROWN AND THE
POLITICAL CLIMATE
IS GRADUALLY
CHANGING.

IT'S BECOME
DIFFICULT FOR
US TO MAINTAIN
OUR SYSTEM
THE WAY IT
CURRENTLY IS.



HOWEVER,
THAT
POSITION
IS NOW IN
DANGER.



ONLY A FEW
GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS AND
SOME MEMBERS
OF PARLIAMENT
KNOW THE
TRUTH ABOUT
THIS PLACE -

- BUT SINCE WE HAVE
SPECIAL EXTRATERRI-
TORIAL RIGHTS, THEY
AREN'T ABLE TO CASU-
ALLYLY MEDDLE IN
OUR AFFAIRS.



EVERYTHING
HAS A
FRONT AND
A BACK.

AND SOMETIMES
ANOTHER SIDE
BEYOND THAT.



OH, IT'S
NOTHING
DIFFICULT.

JUST THINK OF IT
AS AN EXTENSION
OF SOMETHING
YOU'VE BEEN DOING
UP UNTIL NOW.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU EXPECT
FROM ME --

-- BUT
I CAN'T
DO IT.



I WANT YOU TO
TAKE CHARGE
OF THAT
HIDDEN SIDE.



I SEE.
YEAH, THAT
WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME.



I STILL DON'T
GET IT, BUT
SOMEBODY YOU
WANT ME TO DO
ALL THE DIRTY
WORK, RIGHT?







PLEASANT,
HUN...



DEPENDS ON
WHAT YOU DO.
WE'LL MAKE IT SO
SHE CAN LIVE A
PLEASANT LIFE IN
THIS ACADEMY.



YOU'RE
GOING TO
USE MIKIO
TELL THE
KID, HUMP

I KNOW
YOU WOULD.



I'M TIRED,
SO I'LL BE
LEAVING NOW.

THINK
ABOUT IT.



NO ONE'S
GOING TO
OVERLOOK AN
ATTEMPT THIS
TIME AROUND



ONE LAST
THING...

DON'T EVEN
THINK OF
TRYING TO
ESCAPE LIKE
LAST TIME.





IS HIRAKO
HINOSU
REALLY THAT
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?



I'M NOT
INTERESTED
EITHER.

I'M JUST A
FOOL. I DON'T
HAVE A CHOICE
IN THE MATTER
EITHER WAY.



BUT...
POSSIBLY
YES.

I'M NOT
REALLY
SURE.



IS SHE YOUR
WOMAN?



NO, IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT.

I'VE BEEN
TAKING CARE
OF HER EVER
SINCE SHE
WAS A CHILD.





I BET WE'D DO
ANYTHING IF YOU
WERE IN DANGER.









...
YOU THINK
SO?



THAT
THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
ABOUT A
PERSON'S
FEELINGS.

AND HE HIMSELF
WILL REALIZE
IT ONE DAY...



BUT AT THIS
ACADEMY THEY WERE
OLD MEMORIES IN
ESPECIALLY NEGATIVE
ONES, WITH DESIRE
AND CONTROL OUR
FEELINGS THAT WAY.

MORE HUMAN FEELINGS
ARE FORMED FROM
LAKES OF DEFEAT AND
WISDOM.



WE'VE GROWN UP
SO FAR WITHOUT
MEMORIES OF
THINGS WHERE WE
WERE ABOUT TO
BE FULL OF HATRED.

SO IN A WAY, IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE FOR
US TO THINK OF
THINGS LIKE THAT.



WHEN ARII SAID
THAT THIS IS
THE ONLY PLACE
WHERE WE
CAN LIVE --

-- RAYNE
THAT'S WHAT
SHE MEANT.



YOU'RE SAYING
WE'VE GROWN UP
WITH IMAGINE
HEARTS, HUH?



SHE SAID
THERE MIGHT
BE OTHER
STUDENTS LIKE
HER, TOO.



I COULDN'T
ASKEE BACK.

SHE WAS
VERY SHY &
HOPICAL
ABOUT IT.



ACTUALLY, I MET
A STUDENT WHO
KNOWS THE
TRUTH ABOUT
THIS PLACE THE
OTHER DAY.









Chapter 6 #4
帰一
UNITY





WERE THEY
LOOKING
AT US?

IS IT
JUST
ME??



THEY WERE
LOOKING
AT YOMA
TAGANO.





THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER STUDENTS WHO RAN AWAY AND RETURNED LATER, BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE WHO'S EVER STAYED WITH US.



YOU'RE A MINI-CELEBRITY NOW.

SINCE YOU LEFT AND CAME BACK.



I'LL GET OUT OF HERE SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.



I WANT TO ASK FOR MORE DETAILS, BUT I'LL PASS FOR NOW.

IT'D HATE IT IF I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON MY STUDIES.



I MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT YOU GUYS BY THEN, THOUGH.



...



DOES
EVERYONE
FEEL
THAT WAY
TOO?



THE TINY
NUMBER OF
PEOPLE WHO
KNOW THE
TRUTH
PROBABLY
DO.



— I MIGHT
HAVE DONE
THE SAME
THING.



IF I'D
BEEN
BLESSSED
WITH A
CHANCE —
— LIKE
YOU GUYS
WERE —



— THERE'S
NO NEED TO
LASH OUT
JUST TO SEE
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD.

SO LONG AS
YOU'RE NOT
UNHAPPY
WITH YOUR
ENVIRONMENT
—

THIS MUST BE
THE REALITY
AROUND HERE.

EVEN IF
YOU KNOW
THIS ISN'T
IMAGINERY —

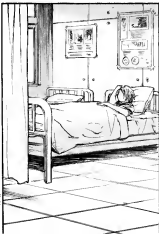
— YOU STILL
DON'T WANT
TO LOSE IT.

I'M STILL
NOT BLISS
—

— WHETHER
THAT WAS A
GOOD THING
OR NOT.

BUT FOR
US —

— KIRINO
MINATSU'S
APPEARANCE
GAVE US A
CHANCE.















FOR
WHAT?



YOU'RE
NOT MAD
AT ME?



YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
WELL.
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
GET MORE
SLEEP.



YOU MUST
BE ANGRY.



IT'S MY FAULT
YOUR BACK
HURTS.



I'M REALLY
SORRY I MADE
YOU SUFFER,
MEI.



AND IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT, MEI.

I'M THE ONE
WHO GOT YOU
ALL INVOLVED
IN THIS.

I'M NOT
ANGRY AT
ALL.





Scene 4: Room 12







WILL YOU LET
ME OUT IF I
GET SICK?



...



DOES HE
STILL KNOW
WHERE I
AM?

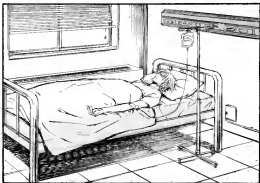
I WONDER
HOW FAR
HE'S GONE...





IN THIS
PART OF
THE LUNG.

DO YOU
SEE IT?

















I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
THREATENING
YOUR POSITION.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT NOW?



SHE DIED WHEN I
WAS ONLY TWO, SO
I DON'T REMEMBER
HER FACE....

BUT
SOMETIMES
I DREAM
OF HER.



SPEAKING
OF DREAMS...

— DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT MOTHER
LOOKED LIKE?



HUNT?



IT'S ALWAYS
THE SAME
LANDSCAPE,
AND I'M
LOOKING AT
BOTH OF US
FROM BEHIND.

IN MY DREAM,
I'M GOING
SOMEWHERE
WITH HER,
WALKING HAND
IN HAND.



IT'S VERY QUIET,
NOBODY ELSE
THERE BUT THE
TWO OF US.



EVENTUALLY
I GET SCARED
AND WAKE UP.

IT'S ALWAYS
THE SAME
DREAM.



I CAN'T SEE
HER FACE, AND
SHE DOESN'T
SAY A WORD.

I JUST KEEP
WALKING
QUIETLY, NOT
KNOWING
WHERE WE'RE
GOING.



IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN
MY MEMORY
THAT I WAS
ALLOWED TO
SEE HER.

AND ALSO
THE LAST
TIME.

I WAS FIVE
YEARS OLD
I DIDN'T REALLY
UNDERSTAND
WHAT "DEATH"
MEANT.



ALL I CAN
REMEMBER

— IS NOTHING
LYING ON
ONE OF THE
BEDS IN THE
HOSPITAL.



BUT I JUST
STARED AT HER
FACE SILENTLY.

SHE MIGHT
HAVE SAID
SOMETHING
TO ME.



I DON'T
REALLY
REMEMBER
WHAT SHE
LOOKED
LIKE.

EVEN
SO...



WHAT ARE
YOU...?

CHECKING
OUT OF
HERE.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?
YOU'LL HAVE TO
STAY HERE
FOR A WHILE!



I'M GONNA
SPEND THE TIME
I WANT LEFT
HOWEVER I WANT.

NOW THAT YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT I HAVE NO
REAL VALUE, I'M
SURE YOU HAVE
NO PURPOSE
FOR ME.



ANY TREATMENT
AT THIS POINT
WOULD BE
USELESS.















A SCHEDULE...
AS IF I'M
GOING TO TAKE
CLASSES NOW...



WAO.

Digitized
わかれ#1
PREFACE

















I'LL BE
LEAVING
THEN.



THAT
WILL DO
ALL.



THE STAFF
ANYTHING IS
DURING A
LITTLE LONG.

WHAT'S
KEEPING
MAYUMI?



ARE YOU
GUYS
FINISHED
TALKING?



YOU'RE
LATE!



WHY I
COME
IN?



WE'RE DONE,
SO PLEASE
EXCUSE ME.

YEAH.





NOBIL.



WHAT DID
YOU AND
NABI TALK
ABOUT?



AND YOU
WANT NABI
TO DO THAT?



IT WOULD BE
BEST TO Wipe
OUT ANY
TROUBLE-
SOME
MEMBERS THEY
MAY HAVE.



NOBIL?



YES. SOME
GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES
HAVE BEEN
A CAUSE FOR
CONCERN FOR A
WHILE NOW.

A LOT OF
PERSONNEL
CHANGED
DURING THE
LAST CABINET
RESHAPE.





...



HE'S GOING TO UNDERGO TREATMENT, WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT.

I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM WORK UNTIL HIS BODY GIVES OUT.



MAYBE THE ONE WHO DIDN'T GET HIMSELF TREATED.

DON'T BE REBOLNT.



THEN WHY DON'T WE RESPECT HIS WISHES AND LET HIM GO?



UNTIL JUST A FEW DAYS AGO YOU WERE DEAD-SET ON MAKING HIM YOUR SUCCESSOR.

BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW HE'S SICK, YOU PLAN TO USE HIM AND THEN THROW HIM AWAY?



I'LL ADMIT
I FELT
THREATENED
BY HIM --

NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT.

-- BUT I
DON'T CARE
ABOUT THAT
ANYMORE.



WORTH
MUCH
PAIN?

NOW THAT
HE'S NO LONGER
A THREAT YOU
SUDDENLY FEEL
SORRY FOR HIM?



AND I FOUND
THAT TAKI
SEACHU IS TO BE
NEEDED BY YOU.



BUT IT WAS
ALL MEANING-
LESS.

I WAS JUST
CLUTCHING AT
A CASTLE MADE
OF SAND AS IT
CUMULED AWAY
BEHIND MY
FEET.



NO. IN FACT,
I HAVEN'T
CARED ABOUT
THE COMPANY
OR THE
ACADEMY FOR
A LONG TIME.

EVER SINCE YOU
LEFT, I'VE BEEN
RESEARCHING FOR
A WAY TO
STAY HERE.





ALL YOU'VE
EVER DONE IS
WALK ALONG
THE PATH I
DREW OUT
FOR YOU.

WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

NOTHING.



KUNO.

I'M GOING
BACK TO MY ROOM.



BOOBY
LOUS.

DON'T
DISAPPOINT
ME ANY
FURTHER.



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
DARED ME
THAT WAY,
FATHER.

YOU BROUGHT
ME UP NOT TO
HAVE ANY DEVILANT
AMBITIONS, DIDN'T YOU?

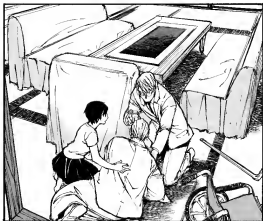


YES,
FATHER.











チャッ





I'LL BE
GONE AGAIN
SOON
ENOUGH.

I DON'T
INTEND TO
CONTINUE
TREATMENT
ONCE I'M
DONE WITH
THE JOB.



NOPE, THE
PRESIDENT'S

YOU'RE
DR. MINORGA,
HEAD OF THE
SURGICAL
DEPARTMENT,
AREN'T YOU?



I'M THE HOSPITAL
DIRECTOR NOW.
IT'S BEEN A LONG
TIME, NAH.

WELCOME
BACK.



I CAN'T WAIT TO
GET OUT OF HERE
AND DIE LIKE A
DOG FIRST
CHANCE I GET.



THAT'S
DISCREET-
TABLE.



YOU ARE
A LUCKY
SOUL.





YOU GET TO
CHOOSE WHAT
TO KEEP AND
WHAT TO
THROW AWAY.



EVERYTHING'S
DECIDED BY
YOUR OWN
FREE WILL.



I DO FEEL
BAD THAT I
WENT AWAY AND
LEFT NAJUM
BEHIND.

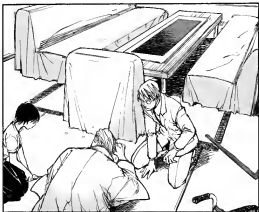


I DON'T CARE
IF YOU REJECT
NAJUMAN --

-- BUT PLEASE
DON'T REJECT
YOUR BROTHER.



HE PROBABLY
COULDN'T
LIVE THE WAY
YOU DO.









MAKURU.

IT'S BEEN
CONFIRMED
THAT HE DIED
OF HEART
FAILURE.











YEAH...

HEART?



THEN I'LL
HAVE KISSED
HIM/HER
RELEASED.

YOU GUYS
ARE FREE
NOW.



I THOUGHT

— I'D BE
BETTER OFF
IF HE DIED.



WHEN DAD
COLLAPSED WITH
THE HEART ATTACK,
I HESITATED
BEFORE GIVING HIM
HIS MEDICINE.



I'LL BE
BUSY
TAKING
OVER FOR
A WHILE.

THE BOARD
MEMBERS
WILL BE ALL
OVER ME
TOMORROW.



WANT ASK
YOU GOING
TO DO HOME?



...



SO GET OUT
OF HERE AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

IF THEY KNOW
YOU WERE
BACK, IT
WOULD CAUSE
ALL KINDS OF
PROBLEMS.

I WON'T
TELL ANYONE
ABOUT YOU.



YOU DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO DO
WITH NARUKAWA
ANymore.

WE WON'T
CHASE YOU
EVER AGAIN.









WELL, HE'S
STILL SHAKEN.

FATHER
MEANT A LOT
TO HIM.



I THOUGHT
YOU HATED
NARUJIMA.



IS NARUJIMA
ALL RIGHT?



NOPE.



I DON'T
KNOW...

HE THINKS
IT'S ALL
FAULT THE
OLD MAN
DIED.

NO MATTER
WHAT WE SAY
HE'S GONNA
BE WORRIED
THAT ANGLING,
RIGHT?



BUT NOW
HE CAN BE
FINE AS
WELL.

YES



EVEN IF

-- HE'D GIVEN HIM
THE MEDICINE
QUICKLY, NOTHING
WOULD HAVE
CHANGED.



WHAT'S SO
AMUSING?



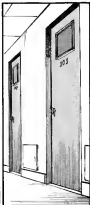
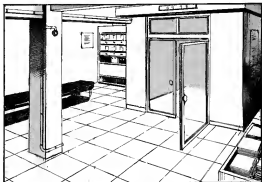
THERE'S
NOTHING BUT
VILLAINS IN
THEIR.

BECAUSE I
SWITCHED THE
CONTENTS OF
THE MEDICINE
BOTTLE.





Chapter 7
わかれ#3







THERE'S SOMETHING I
NEED TO TELL
YOU, AAAA...

BUT...
THERE'S NO ONE
AROUND
APART
FROM US
STUDENTS.



YOU'LL GET
YOURSELF
INTO TROUBLE
COMING
HERE.



A LOT OF
PEOPLE ARE
ASSEMBLING
FROM
OUTSIDE.

SOMETHING
IS UP...



MIKIO HAS
CALLED AAAA.



WHERE
TOP?

I DON'T
KNOW,
BUT...













BUT I'M
STILL
WORRIED.

I'M SURE
YOU'LL
WORK IT OUT
SOMEHOW.

YOU'RE NOT A
KID ANYMORE.
YOU'VE GOT
YOUR ACT
TOGETHER.



BUT THAT'S
HUMAN
FEELINGS
FOR YOU.

THAT MIGHT
SEEM STRANGE,
COMING FROM
SOMEONE WHO
TRIED TO ABANDON
YOU SEVERAL
TIMES...



IT'S A
CATCH-
I KNOW.

I WANT
YOU TO BE
HAPPY.











DID YOU BRING
THE NEWS TO
THINK DURING
THE MEETING?



WANT ME
TO GIVE
YOU SOME-
THING?

SURE,
I'LL
TAKE IT.



THERE WASN'T
MUCH OPPO-
SITION FROM
THE BOARD.

HAD OF THEM
BELIEVE THIS
PLACE SERVED
ITS PURPOSE IN
MY FATHER'S TIME
AND THERE'S NO
REASON TO DRIVE
THE RISKS OF
KEEPING IT
OPEN NOW.



THAT'S
JUST
GOD.



...AND?











IT'S NOTHING!

YOU LOOK
AWFULLY
PALE.





IT'S BEEN
OVER A MONTH
SINCE WE
CAME BACK.

Chapter 7
わかれ
FARWELL



THE
ACADEMY
HAS BEEN
CLOSED
DOWN.



— AND THOSE
WHO CHOSE TO
BE EMPLOYED
IN ONE OF
MARDUKAWO
AFFILIATED
COMPANIES.

THE STUDENTS
WERE DIVIDED
WHO CHOSE
TO TRANSFER
INTO ANOTHER
SCHOOL —



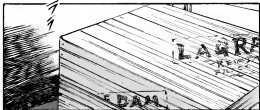
THE ACADEMY,
WHICH DID NOT
OFFICIALLY
EXIST IN THE
FIRST PLACE —

— WAS SHUT
DOWN AND THE
BUILDINGS
DEMOLISHED.



NO RECORD
REMAINS
OTHER OF
THE ACADEMY
OR OF OUR
EXISTENCE.

THE TIME WE
SPENT THERE
BECAME A
COMPLETE
BLANK.



I'M PUTTING
THEM HERE.

THANK
YOU.



HELLO,
DELIVERY FROM KIRAI
LIQUOR.



OUR BOSS
IS NOT IN
RIGHT NOW.



HAVE YOU
GOTTEN
USED TO
THIS JOB
YET?

HERE'S
THE BILL.
GIVE IT
TO HIM.



WHAT?
LET'S OUT
PLAYING
PACHINKO
AGAIN?



SPEAKING OF
WHICH, YOU
STILL HAVEN'T
HEARD FROM
HER?



YEAH...
I'M
MANAGING.

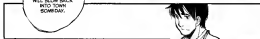
I'M LEARNING
HOW TO COOK
SO IT'S A LOT
OF FUN.



WELL, YOU'VE
ALREADY BEEN A
FAST LEARNER.

EVEN THOUGH
HE INITIALLY
WANTED A GIRL
TO REPLACE
KIBAKO.

THE OWNER
SAID IT
TOO.







"WHY DON'T
YOU TELL
ANYONE
ABOUT THE
MURDER?"



"THAT
COULD
BE..."



"YOU'VE COME
TO ME.
GUILTY ABOUT
KILLING
PEOPLE FOR
THE GOOD OF
THE WORLD."



"I THOUGHT
YOU WERE ON
HIS SIDE."



"BUT IN
THE END,
ANYONE IS
A MURDERER."



"BUT STILL, AM,
I EVEN ASKED
HIM TO LEAVE
THIS PLACE WITH
ME BEFORE."



"BUT HE MAY
END UP
LEAVING ON
MY OWN."



"NOW THAT
FATHER IS DEAD,
I HAVE NOTHING
MORE TO DO WITH
HARRISONS."



"... IS MY FIFTY
MAY BE GETTING
REVENGE ON
THE HARRISONS
FAMILY."

"YOU'RE
NOT TELLING
ANYONE
ABOUT THIS
ARRANGEMENT."







I DEBARRIED
EVERYTHING NOW.

MAI...



IT'S OK.



I UNDER-
STOOD WHAT
HAPPENED,
AND I FELT
RELIEVED.

BUT...
ONCE
I CONSIDERED
IT WAS LIKE
"YOU, IS
THAT ALL?"

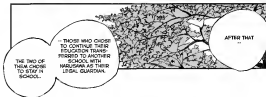
ALL THIS
TIME I FELT
SO ANNOYED.



THE FACT THAT
YOU'RE HERE
MEANS THE ESCAPE
ATTEMPT WAS A
SUCCESS, RIGHT?

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MAI
AND SHOU?







ONE IT A
READ LATER.

IT'S STILL JUST A
DRAFT... I PIECED THE
FRAGMENTS OF MY
MEMORIES TOGETHER
AS I DESPERATELY
TRIED TO REMEMBER.

BUT...
I'VE WRITTEN
QUITE A BIT.

EVEN WHILE
I WAS IN THE
HOSPITAL.

I THINK I
WANT TO GO
BACK THERE.

— MY
MEMORIES OF
THE ACADEMY
COME ACROSS
VERY NOSTAL-
GICALLY.

SO IN THE
NOVEL —

...ORAH, I
KNOW WHAT
YOU MEAN.



... THE TIME HE
SPENT IN THE
ACADEMY WAS
STRANGELY
PEACEFUL.

EVEN THOUGH
WE KNEW
SOMETHING
WAS OFF --



THAT PLACE
WAS THE
ONLY WORLD
WE KNEW.

THE SAME
FRIENDS AND
THE SAME
SCENERY
FROM CHILD-
HOOD...

UNWASHING
FEELING OF
SECURITY...



IT'S TRUE THAT
MY LIFE IS FULL
OF HIGH-TECH
NOW.

IT'S
STUNNING,
BUT IT'S ALSO
TRIALS.



WE
SAID...

"THAT PLACE
IS THE ONLY
PLACE WE
CAN LIVE."



WHEN I THINK
BACK, I DON'T
KNOW WHICH
IS BETTER.

BUT THIS IS
THE REAL
WORLD.





















YOU TOO,
AKINO.



TAKE
CARE.



I WONDER
HOW --

-- THE TIME YOU
SPENT AT THIS
ACADEMY WILL
AFFECT YOU FROM
NOW ON, HAAL.





[break look]





THE HOUR OF THE MOON / END

Thank you for sticking with me till the end.

It felt longer than it was, or maybe it lasted longer than it felt. I don't know, but quite frankly I'm relieved this series is over.

While it was running, I worried so much about my drafts that I gave myself headaches and became nauseous. Thinking back now, maybe I took it too seriously. But thanks to that, I learned a lot. It was tough but now that it's over I feel a bit sad.

In spite of all my doubts, I think I was able to arrive at the point I had in mind when I started. At the same time, I'm not sure what kind of genre this work fits into.

If you felt something when you read this manga, that's enough for me.

March 2008,
Kei Tōme



Kiriko's initial design

Her hairstyle and uniform were both different. The only thing I knew for sure was that I wanted her to have long hair.



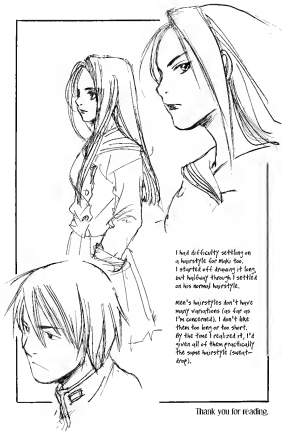


Miki's initial design

I couldn't decide what hairstyle to give her. I just knew I wanted it to be short.



At first I imagined her with black hair. It's only later that I decided to give her a lighter shade of hair.



I had difficulty settling on a hairstyle for Miku too. I started off drawing it long, but halfway through I settled on her normal hairstyle.

Miku's hairstyles don't have many variations (as far as I'm concerned). I don't like them too long or too short. By the time I realized it, I'd given all of them practically the same hairstyle (sweet-drop).

Thank you for reading.